

PREMIER KING TELLS COMMONS OF INTENTIONS

Government Will Insist on Terms Petersen Contract Being Carried Out.

OTTAWA, March 17.—(Canadian Press).—"What the government proposes to do, once the ships are built, is to let the Canadian shipper set the rate at which he is expected to carry cattle from Canadian ports to the ports of Great Britain. If he carries at that rate he will be paid to the extent provided for in the agreement. If he does not perform that service he will not be entitled to a five-cent piece nor will he get a five-cent piece. Can anything be plainer than that?"

Thus, speaking in the House of Commons today, Premier King emphatically laid down the intentions of the government in its scheme to "fix" the rate of freight.

The Premier's speech came in continued debate on the contract between the Canadian government and Sir William Petersen under which Sir William is to provide ten ships for ten years and is to receive an annual subsidy of £275,000. "The obligation is clear," the premier

Delves Into Rates.

The Premier delved at length into negotiations for reduction in ocean freight rates, but was disappointed. He declared that the government was prepared to give any shipping company that was willing to voluntarily support the opportunity of entering into a contract along lines identical with the Petersen contract. "I personally made such a proposal to the president of the company, one evening ago, and that offer is open at the present time," he informed the house. The condition was that the government must control the rates.

Mr. King spoke of interviews between Hon. T. A. Low, minister of marine, and several Canadian ship-owners in Montreal. Mr. Low

"It was," said Mr. King, "because the government found it impossible to get the co-operation of our own Canadian ship-owners in its efforts to reduce rates on the Atlantic for cattle, that we took the further step we have taken." And the whole purpose of the government's contract with the Petersen Line was to take

away from "the world-wide combine with headquarters at New York" the determining of rates on at least part of Canada's trade with the old country and to make such rates subject to the control of the Canadian government.

Premier King began his speech shortly after four in the afternoon and did not finish till 10.40 in the evening. He closed by comparing the action of the Canadian government with the story of David and

Joeliah, observing that the pebble cast into the Atlantic would stir the waters on every shore. Then Right Hon. Arthur Meighen, opposition leader, rose and adjourned the debate. Mr. Meighen will be the first speaker when next the Petersen contract is before the house.

B. C. SHINGLE MILLS
CLOSE BY AGREEMENT

VANCOUVER, B.C., March 17.—A complete shut-down of every shingle mill in British Columbia west of Cascade will go into effect at once, according to an agreement reached by the Shingle Manufacturers' Association.

"How long the mills will remain closed will depend altogether on the market," said Secretary Bevel, of the association.

"No business is coming in at present prices and it is impossible to sell at any lower figure and get by," he added.

A partial shut-down took place

**TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE
IN QUEBEC AS RESORT**

OTTAWA, Mar. 17.—(Canadian Press).—To restore confidence in Quebec province, as a summer resort, the government should expedite inquiry now being made by one of its seismologists in the region most affected by the recent earthquake, and make an authoritative declaration on the subject, F. Casgrain, Liberal, Montserrat, declared in the house of commons this afternoon.

RUMORED THAT LICENSE BOARD TO BE CHANGED

TORONTO, March 17.—The Toronto Telegram publishes a report heard at Queen's Park, but lacking official confirmation, that the Ontario government has decided to re-transfer the license board and the Ontario Temperance act administration back to the department of the provincial secretary.

The Telegram also publishes a

major that there needs to be a complete
shake-up of the provincial police de-
partment.

